

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing bone resorption in an individual ~~diagnosed to have osteoporosis exhibiting low bone mass or decreased bone mineral density~~, said method comprising administering an antagonist of placental growth factor to the individual in an amount effective to reduce bone resorption, ~~wherein said antagonist is an antibody or a functionally active fragment thereof~~.

2-13. (Canceled)

14. (Withdrawn) A method to identify an individual with excessive bone resorption or a predisposition to acquire a disorder of excessive bone resorption, which comprises identifying a polymorphism of the PlGF promoter and/or elevated levels of PlGF in a sample of said individual.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said subject is a human.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~suppressing~~ bone resorption in ~~treating~~ osteoporosis ~~in an individual~~, said method comprising ~~contacting an osteoclast cell with~~ ~~administering~~ an antagonist of placental growth factor ~~to said individual so that bone~~

resorption is suppressed in an amount effective to treat said osteoporosis, wherein said antagonist is an antibody or a functionally active fragment thereof.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (New) A method for reducing bone resorption in an individual exhibiting low bone mass or decreased bone mineral density, said method comprising administering an antagonist of placental growth factor to said individual in an amount effective to reduce bone resorption, wherein said antagonist is selected from the group consisting of anti-sense nucleic acids against placental growth factor, interference RNA against placental growth factor, and ribozymes against placental growth factor.

20. (New) A method for reducing bone resorption in an individual exhibiting low bone mass or decreased bone mineral density, said method comprising administering an antagonist of placental growth factor to said individual in an amount effective to reduce bone resorption, wherein said antagonist is a tetrameric peptide that binds specifically to placental growth factor.

21. (New) A method for treating osteoporosis in an individual, said method comprising administering an antagonist of placental growth factor to said individual in an

amount effective to treat said osteoporosis, wherein said antagonist is selected from the group consisting of anti-sense nucleic acids against placental growth factor, interference RNA against placental growth factor, and ribozymes against placental growth factor.

22. (New) A method for treating osteoporosis in an individual, said method comprising administering an antagonist of placental growth factor to said individual in an amount effective to treat said osteoporosis, wherein said antagonist is a tetrameric peptide that binds specifically to placental growth factor.